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Message Text

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17 15
ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ISO-00 SS-14 PM-03 INR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /060 W
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R 261014Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 296
SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 8850

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: U.S. OPENING STATEMENT

LIMDIS/MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH UK AND FRG REPS OCTOBER 24, UK REP RAISED ISSUE OF REFERENCE TO PARITY IN ORIGINAL TEXT OF US OPENING STATEMENT. HE SAID THAT HE HAS REGRETTABLY FAILED TO CARRY OUT HIS OFFER TO COORDINATE HIS PORPOSAL FOR DELETION OF THE WORD "PARITY" WITH FRG REP UNTIL PREVIOUS DAY AND THAT FRG REP HAD ON THAT OCCASION INTRODUCED STRONG REASONS FOR WISHING TO RETAIN MENTION OF PARITY BOTH IN FRG OPENING STATEMENT AND IN US TEXT.

2. FRG REP POINTED OUT THAT THE WORD "PARITY" BELONGED TO STANDARD NATO TERMINOLOGY, THAT THE CONCEPT WAS TO SOME DEGREE SELF-EXPLANATORY AND EFFECTIVE FOR PUBLIC USE, THAT THE COMMON CEILING OF MANPOWER ALONE WAS NOT A SUFFICIENT GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ALLIED OBJECTIVE GOALS SINCE IT DID NOT COVER TANKS, AND THAT
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THE INITIAL MENTION OF THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT SHOULD BE

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IN THE CONTEXT OF APPROXIMATE PARITY TO HEAD OFF A POTENTIAL SOVIET EFFORT TO PICK UP THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT AND SEEK TO APPLY IT ACROSS THE BOARD AS IMPLYING NUMERICAL EQUALITY IN ALL ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT. FRG REP SAID FOR THESE REASONS HE INTENDED TO RETAIN USE OF PARITY IN HIS OWN STATEMENT AND URGED THAT US DO SO ALSO.

3. SINCE WE BELIEVE ALLIES SHOULD BE IN POSITION TO USE THE PARITY CONCEPT FROM THE OUTSET IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT, WE WOULD INTEND TO RETURN TO THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ON THIS SUBJECT OF THE US OPENING STATEMENT AUTHORIZED BY WASHINGTON, USING TEXT IN PARAGRAPH 24 OF VIENNA 8689 AS FOLLOWS: "IN KEEPING WITH THIS CONCEPT AND WITH THE ACTUAL NATURE OF THE PROBLEM AT HAND, WE CONSIDER THAT AN ULTIMATE GOAL OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE APPROXIMATE PARITY IN THE FORM OF A COMMON CEILING FOR THE GROUND FORCES OF EACH SIDE IN CENTRAL EUROPE."
HUMES

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